

Remarks:

This amendment is submitted in an earnest effort to advance this case to issue without delay.

The specification has been amended to eliminate some minor obvious errors and to place it in better US form. No new matter whatsoever has been added.

This amendment replaces the main claim in this case and otherwise amends the claims to make them better comply with US practice.

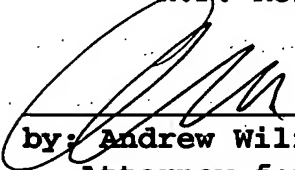
The new main claim clearly distinguishes over the cited art. More particularly:

US patent 6,660,371 of Westphal, which is the equivalent of WO 2000/017416 discussed in the Background section of this application, discloses in column 3, lines 37 to 43 a first layer of TiN, a second layer of Al_2O_3/ZrO_2 or HfO_2/TiO_2 , and a third layer of ZrO_2 . Nothing resembling two coatings each comprising one single-phase layer and one multiphase layer is shown or suggested. This layered structure has proven extremely durable as shown in the drawing of the instant application. Nothing in Westphal suggests the layered system of new main claim 10, so that a rejection of it on §103 is impossible.

Allowance of all claims and passage to issue are in order.

If only minor problems that could be corrected by means of a telephone conference stand in the way of allowance of this case, the examiner is invited to call the undersigned to make the necessary corrections.

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosure: Corrected version of translation
 Substitute Specification
 Substitute Abstract
 PTO-1449